MODERN TIMES

"What you do is news!"

562-2510 20¢

Vol. II No. 23 New Haven April 1-15, 1972

UE Walks Out To Defend Union Gains

Modern Times Staff

Production workers, members of Locals 298 and 299 of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America (UEW) continue to strike the MB Electronics

Co. and the Whitney Blake Co. after failing to reach agreement with management on new contract proposals. No further bargaining talks have been scheduled in either strike.

The Whitney Blake Co. in Hamden is a subsidiary of the Continental Telephone Co., the third largest telephone company in the world. The company manufactures telephone cable for Continental. MB Electronics, a division of Textron Inc., manufactures vibration equipment for the aerospace industry. They presently are trying to enter the industrial products area.

300 members of Local 299 have been on strike at Whitney Blake since March 14. Harry Kaplan, a UEW field representative, stated that the management has offered 5.5 per cent wage increase for straight hourly workers and 5.5 per cent base pay for incentive workers.

The Whitney Blake management appears to offer only those standards allowable by the Pay Board, not the wage increase the union feels is justified. However, the main disagreement is over the company proposal concerning seniority provision. "They want to get rid of seniority," said a woman on the Whitney Blake line, "they want to take people off the street to fill jobs that belong to us."

Strike at MB

Approximately 80 members of Local 298 voted unanimously to strike MB Electronics on March 17 at a meeting at the Hamden Italian American Independent Club. The members followed a recommendation by the union's negotiating committee that the proposal be rejected. It became apparent to the membership that the offer was unchanged from a previous proposal made February 25 by the management. Federal and state mediators met with both sides Thursday night, March 16, hoping the company would improve its offer. They did not. "Textron (owners of MB) is a big company, they're going to be tough to beat," said one striker.

Strikers at the Whitney Blake Company in Hamden on picket duty at the employees entrance. The workers are members of United Electrical Workers Local 299. Spirit and determination are high. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein)

Because of this rigid position by management, the union committee had no alternative but to recommend the proposal be rejected. The unanimous vote by the members showed both the support of the committee's recommendation and the total rejection of an obviously very poor proposal by the company.

According to Harry Kaplan, MB offered a one-year contract with a wage increase of 2.5 per cent. The union feels an 8 per cent wage increase is required to meet their basic needs. *Guidelines for the Federal Pay Board allows a 5.5 per cent wage increase and .7 per cent in fringe benefits. It is obvious that management won't meet even these minimal standards.*

"Management is really organized," said a striker in response to a question about the similarity between MB and Whitney Blake.

The strike is the first in 30 years at MB while the UEW has represented its Local 298 members. All production workers at MB are members of Local 298 UEW.

Strikers at MB Electronics on Whalley Avenue in New Haven pose for photo at the main entrance. (M-T photo by Matt Borenstein)

Workers & Moms Unite To Fight Welfare Plan

Over 50,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. recently to protest President Nixon's welfare cuts. (M-T photo by Joe Taylor)

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Four New Haven buses packed full, three children to a seat, went off to Washington, D.C., Saturday, March 25 to tell President Nixon and the Congress of their strong opposition to the Family Assistance Plan. The New Haven Welfare MOMS had gone door to door in the weeks before this national Children's March for Survival getting mothers and children signed up to go. A newly formed coalition of union and community groups coordinated the New Haven action with the MOMS.

The union which represents New Haven welfare workers, Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees, supported the effort. One Welfare MOM was especially heartened to see the local president of CUWE on the march.

"Save Our Children" was the theme of the march, and the whole day was planned around the young people.

Continued on page 4

Labor Moves Ahead

SEE PAGE 9

Labor Council Set to Act on Prices

by Nina Adams
Watchdog Committee
Member from YNFAC

"The wage-price controls which we live with today are totally unjust," according to Lynne Karsten, project coordinator of the Price Watchdog Committee, Central Labor Council. "Wage increases are carefully controlled at 5.5% – and have actually remained around 4.3% – while prices are climbing every day.

"There have been greater increases in prices during the past six months than in the six months before the 'controls' went into effect." In fact, grocery prices rose more during February than during any month since March, 1958, according to official government figures.

teers will carefully record the listed base price of approximately 100 items from the Base Price Book. This book is open to the public and must be available in the store.

Sirabella Supports Watchdog Committee

"I believe that this committee will be doing extremely important work," said Vincent Sirabella, President, Greater N.H. Central Labor Council. **"Everyone knows that prices are rising. This committee will publicize and educate on the specifics of the price rise, plan future activities and will probably have a major influence in keeping prices down in New Haven, as has happened with similar committees in other cities."**

The Price Watchdog Committee is working closely with the local Nader group Connecticut Citizen Action Group

Shoppers at a local supermarket buy their high priced groceries. The Price Watchdog Committee will conduct a survey to see exactly how much the cost of food items has increased during the "price freeze". (M-T photo by Ray Milici)

"The Price Watchdog Committee has voted to act against this outrageous increase in prices," Karsten explained. "We will begin with a careful survey of the major grocery stores in the New Haven area, noting the August 15 base prices of food items. We will then compare this price with the present price. This comparison will tell us how much prices have increased overall."

Local Survey Happening

The survey will take place during the weeks of April 3 to 15. Volunteers from unions and community organizations are signing up; more people are needed and should call 624-6248 to volunteer. The project will take an hour or two; volunteers will carefully record the listed base price of approximately 100 items from the Base Price Book. This book is open to the public and must be available in the store.

(CCAG) which checks prices on a monthly basis. The prices collected by the CCAG will be compared with the base prices recorded by the Price Watchdog Committee survey. The difference between the present price and the base price will show how much prices have risen in this period of "price controls."

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was assigned the job of controlling prices. Complaints and problems were to be handled by the IRS. In fact the IRS is small and overworked and has handled very little of this job.

The Price Watchdog Committees, set up across the country by the AFL–CIO have been handling the job that the IRS should be doing.

WAR TAX RESISTANCE CLINICS

Dave Brown of the New England CNVA would like to work with people throughout New England on setting up day-long, half-day, or evening sessions on resisting war taxes. For more information contact Dave Brown, c/o New England CNVA, RFD No. 1, Box 430, Voluntown, Conn. 06384. (203) 376-9970 or 376-0287.

DA: to Get Sirabella?

by David Adams
Modern Times Staff

The criminal court in New Haven has already spent three weeks of its crowded docket on a single case in which two New Haveners are charged with disorderly conduct. What is the reason for tying up the courts with such a case?

The case is that of Vincent Sirabella, President of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, and Domenic Franco, a roofer at Yale. They are charged with disorderly conduct for their role in picketing the Yale graduation during the strike of Local 35 of the Federation of University Employees last June.

Unlike usual cases of disorderly conduct, those arising from the Yale strike were not dropped or nolled by the State prosecutor. Some of the people charged last summer have pleaded guilty. Other cases are pending. Sirabella and Franco have chosen to fight the charges.

One source close to the case suggested that the police were embarassed by the beatings which they inflicted on some of the strikers last summer,which were filmed by national television cameras and led to several formal charges of brutality. If they can obtain a charge of disorderly conduct, their actions might seem more justifies.

The first week of testimony in the trial was mostly directed at Sirabella, business agent of Local 35, and leader of the strike. The prosecution contended that Sirabella tried to lead strikers through a police line to get at the Yale graduation processional.

On cross-examination, several of the police witnesses gave contradictory descriptions of the circumstances surrounding the initial encounter between the strikers and the police. Some said that a police line had formed before the picketers arrived. Others said that it was in the process of formation. Some said Sirabella ran into the line; others said he walked quickly towards it.

Scene was Confused

The scene on June 14 was confused because of a sudden change in plans in the Yale processional. The Yale strikers massed on the steps of the First Methodist Church at Elm and College so as to be in sight of the Yale processional as it took its traditional route around the Green before going to the graduation ceremonies on the Old Campus. But the processional, with police escort. tried to evade the picket signs altogether by crossing Elm Street directly to Old Campus instead of going through the Green. It was at that point that the picketers, led by Sirabella and others moved towards the new site of the processional and ran into police opposition.

One observer noted that the police were on the scene in large numbers, but did not make any provision for orderly picketing. Instead, they seemed to be concerned primarily that the Yale processional would not have to realize it was crossing a picket line.

Young Unionists Meet

Lynn Zawacki, chairwoman of the Young Unionist Action League speaks at a local organizing meeting March 22. Attending unionists saw the labor film *The Inheritance* and discussed ways of getting younger unionists active in their locals. (M-T Photo by Paul Gill)

Labor Newspaper Reaches Out To Promote Unity

by Don Dallas
Editor of "Vanguard"
Connecticut AFL-CIO

As of April 15, a new 140,000 circulation labor newspaper will be born.

Called **Vanguard** – a title used since the early 1940's – the publication is the official newspaper of the Connecticut State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Until now, it has been distributed to union leaders and representatives of all the AFL-CIO unions; but it will now be mailed free each month to all AFL-CIO unionists in the state.

As editor of **Vanguard**, I am well aware there is urgent need for the wide dissemination of information and education within the Connecticut labor movement in 1972, a crucial year which may well be the turning point in the movement.

Unofficial but highly reliable reports from national AFL-CIO point out that labor is geared for the most massive national political effort in its American history, and has started months earlier than usual in a campaign with one objective: Beat Nixon.

Beyond that, the Connecticut goal of **Vanguard** will be to bring people closer together and to help them understand one another as people.

Only a unity of labor, consumers, minorities, people-minded professionals, and others -- banded together as one voice on issues of consensus -- can turn the Connecticut tide against what I view as the most reactionary administration and mood to have infected the state in my 31-year lifetime.

To date, groups such as the labor movement, A.I.M., women's liberation, black power, Nader's Raiders, student groups, etc., have fought for a host of issues that are often not coordinated with one another, sometimes conflict with one another, and sometimes negate one another. This has paved the way for the political take-over by reactionaries and arch-reactionaries.

Vanguard Hopes to Unify

We hope to be an effective vehicle to bring together the working man and woman and the poor -- and the professionals -- so that in unity we shall have strength on those issues which do unite us -- such as the creation of jobs in public service, a progressive state income tax, aid to cities, rescuing welfare, upgrading education, new approaches to citizen education, etc.

Important steps in all of the above areas have already been taken by Connecticut labor, and they will be detailed in **Vanguard**.

In spite of the formidable obstacles we face, **Vanguard** is hopeful that people can come closer together and understand their common interests and goals. **Vanguard** hopes to support itself through extensive advertising in order to maintain its newly expanded circulation.

Union Fights Penn C On Rule Changes

by Slipry Rail

On March 16 the management of the bankrupt Penn Central Transportation Company (railroad) issued a bulletin "to all employees represented by the United Transportation Union (UTU)." It "regretfully" informed them that, a negotiated settlement could not be reached on Penn Central's long-standing demand for rules changes, and that therefore Penn Central would put its own rule into effect on April 1.

This "rule" states that "Management shall have the unrestricted right" to decide how many employees of whatever classification (brakemen, conductors, etc.) will be used anywhere and what they will be required to do.

In its release to the press and the public Penn Central pleaded poverty, citing its bankrupt condition, federal court order to "reorganize" and continuing deficit.

Unless the Penn Central backs down, or unless the courts or the Government steps in before April 1, the United Transportation Union(UTU) will undoubtedly strike.

UTU Prepares for a Strike

Preparations are going forward to shut down and picket the Penn Central system ––Boston to St. Louis and Washington to Mackinaw City, Michigan. It should be quite a show. Of course the big question is what Nixon, the courts, and the government boards will do.

Management is the Problem

Penn Central's "rule" is totally unacceptable to the UTU and to its members for several reasons.

1. Long, bitter experience shows that management's "unrestricted right" to decide anything implies contemptuous disregard for the safety of employees, passangers, freight, or equipment. (Management uses lip service to safety as an excuse to harrass and intimidate employees and to selectively discipline those who show a little spunk.)

2. The first step in getting out of the red should be to get rid of a lot of unnecessary bosses and to start selecting people for management positions for demonstrated ability to do the job with a cool head rather than for willingness to take part in the game of harrassment and intimidation.

3. A sacred principle of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen (BRT), which represented brakemen and conductors before it merged into the UTU has for generations been the "line of demarcation" between yard work and road work.

This means that, wherever there is enough yard work to justify employing a yard switcher (an engine and a crew of four men) a yard switcher *will be* employed and will do the yard work and only the yard work. (If management orders a yard crew to go outside "yard limits" or a train crew to do yard work, it pays a penalty of at least an hours pay to each member of the crew.)

Penn Central's "rule" would scrap this as of April 1.

4. Years of patient bargaining have established that the crews or trains or switchers will be paid extra whenever required to do work that properly belongs to another department--re-railing a de-railed car, moving a car with pole or chain when the regular coupling device is missing or can't be used, or coupling the compressed-air hoses for the air-brakes. These are all jobs that involve special skill and special safety precautions.

Penn Central's "rule" would scrap it all.

5. PC insists that it can run trains safely and efficiently – using two-way radios, etc. – with two-or-three-man crews instead of the present four or five men.

UTU, besides not trusting PC's judgement of what is safe, says that loads and trains keep getting bigger and longer and that if crews are going to get shorter the remaining crew members should get a bigger share of the saving.

Penny Wise-Pound Foolish

Also the longer trains repeatedly show the penny-wise-pound-foolish policy of management. Four or five engines pull 100 to 180 cars so that only one crew will have to be paid. Then a minor break-down means a delay of three hours or more. The crew may have to be relieved enroute, deadlines for delivery may be missed, the PC may be fined for blocking a public crossing too long, etc.

6. Employees hired before Jan. 1, 1968 have a guaranteed monthly wage based on their average monthly earnings in 1967. PC apparently wants to make them work overtime until they work out their guarantees while laying off most of those hired later and so not under the guarantee.

Under its own rule PC could make every employee work as many days or hours as he did in 1967. As a man gets older, work him to death then you don't have to pay his guarantee any more.

Government take-over of the PC system – like it or not– may be closer than we think.

Labor Exits Pay Board

by Matt Borenstein
Modern Times Staff

After five months of frustration with Nixon's economic programs, four labor members of the Pay Board quit. After the Board had trimmed the West Coast Dock contract and after huge cost-of-living increases were announced, AFL-CIO president George Meany, Steelworkers president I.W. Abel, Machinists president Floyd Smith, and Leonard Woodcock of the *Auto Workers decided they'd had* enough.

Frank Fitzsimmons of the Teamsters, the lone labor representative to remain on the Pay Board, said he would "work within the system."

The next day Nixon announced that the Pay Board will be reformed with one labor member, one business member, and five public members. It would be a completely public Board, he said. However, the AFL-CIO and the Autoworkers represent close to 18 million organized workers. The AFL-CIO declared, "We will not be a part of the window dressing for this system of unfair and inequitable government control of wages for the benefit of profits."

Prices Rise - Only Wages are Frozen

The AFL-CIO statement cited the 8.4% yearly rate of increase in prices (wholesale) indicated by the February statistics. "Retail food prices have gone through the roof and are continuing up - eroding the buying power of American families."

The AFL–CIO executive council pointed out that profits are free to rise without the pretense of controls. In addition, Nixon has given business extra tax breaks worth billions of dollars at the expense of the nation's most pressing needs.

Reports indicated that the 100 largest corporations had a 76% rise in profits last year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on March 3 that the wages of 47 million workers had remained unchanged over the last two months.

The most recent labor grievance against the Pay Board was the rejection of the West Coast Longshoremen contract. The Board ruled that the 20.9% eighteen month settlement would be reduced to 14.9%. Worker productivity on the West Coast docks has increased 140% over the last ten years giving the shipping companies an additional one billion dollars in revenue. During that time the workers have only received $60 million or 6% of their economic worth in added wages. The possibility of a united front of East and West Coast Longshoremen supported by the AFL–CIO is being considered.

In a press conference announcing his resignation, George Meany said: "If the wage stabilization program is to be government controlled, let it be so openly and clearly. Let the people exercising the power take the full responsibility for their decisions without the facade of labor representation and the pretense of tripartism."

YNFAC Worries Yale

by Bill Berndtson
Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee

The Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee (YNFAC) unionization drive at Yale has stirred up some more activity in recent weeks. The first, concerning Yale "salary increases" was reported in the local press. The other two concern Yale publications, a new publication called the "General Bulletin," and an article about YNFAC in the Yale Alumni Magazine.

Yale's recent press release, concerning salary increases "to relieve compression pressure" brought about by last year's realignment of salary grades, has proved to be a farce. The press release implied that substantial increases were to be guaranteed. They were supposed to relieve the situation of long-time employees receiving no higher salary than newcomers.

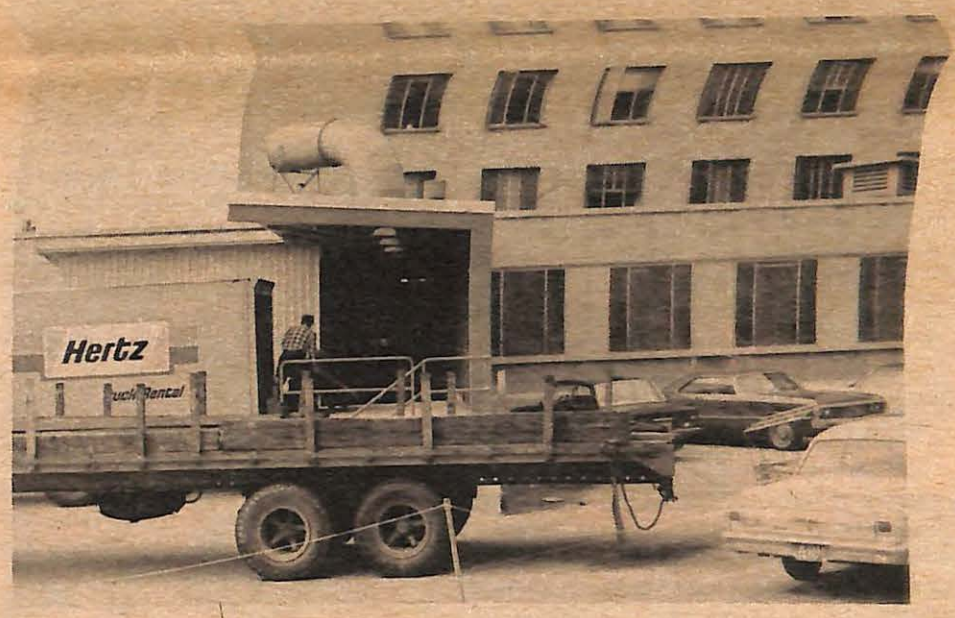
Actually the increases ranged from nothing in the great majority of cases to $10 a year and up for others.

The interesting thing about this is that Yale held back increases from about 10% of their employees who were to receive them. When these employees complained, Yale attributed the mistakes to "computer error" and rectified them. This manipulation is Yale's method of appearing reasonable and responsive to its employees.

Yale's new "General Bulletin" was originally intended to be a newsletter; at

See YALE SWEET TALK page 9.

Laundry Moves Out -- Workers Too



Pictured above is the newly completed loading platform at the entrance of Yale-New Haven Hospital's laundry. Dirty laundry is now trucked to Milford where a cooperative laundry is well underway. A few hospitals got together and figured out a way to save money on labor costs, at the workers' expense, by combining their individual laundries into one centrally located laundry. The hospitals participating in addition to Yale-New Haven are Milford Hospital, St. Raphael's and Park City and St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport. (M-T photo by Ray Milici)

Labor Notes

CAFETERIA WORKERS DENIED HEALTH PLAN

Cafeteria workers in New Haven Schools are not being allowed by the Board of Education to enroll in the Community Health Care Plan. According to John Wilhelm of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, which represents the workers, "someone, apparently in the Controller's office, thinks his whims are more important than a legally binding contract." Under terms of the union's contract which went into effect last year any individual worker may choose to enroll in the health plan and the Board of Education is required to pick up the tab to the extend that it would pay for any other medical plan.

UNION–HATING PAY BOARD MEMBER

Virgil Day, a union-hating vice-president of General Electric and a business member of President Nixon's Pay Board has written an article in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce magazine demanding that the 5.5% ceiling on wage hikes should be strictly enforced. In fact, he demanded that the ceiling be lower than 5.5% next year. The next day General Electric announced that its profits had soared by 30% over the previous year.

Victory Lodge 609 News, February, 1972

Agent Testifies In Harrisburg

by Reed Smith
Waterbury Committee of Conscience

An FBI informer, Robert Hardy, testified that the raid on Draft Board files in Camden, New Jersey "couldn't possibly have happened if I wasn't there". Because he said the FBI provided gas, trucks and groceries to the group planning the raid, and he instructed them on how to avoid burgler alarms and break into a fifth floor window. This is the latest development in the Government's campaign in the courts against Catholic anti-war activists in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

As a result of another paid FBI informer's information, Father Philip Berrigan, two other priests, a nun, a former priest, a former nun, and a Pakistani Moslem are on trial before a Federal district Court jury in Harrisburg on charges of conspiring to destroy heating ducts to Government buildings in Washington., to kidnap Presidential advisor Henry A. Kissinger, and to destroy draft records in several states.

The Harrisburg informer is Boyd Douglas, who received more than $9,000 from the FBI during 1970 when he was serving as a double agent --carrying contraband letters between Father Berrigan and other defendants, and giving copies of the letters to the FBI. Douglas and Father Berrigan were prisoners at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

The defense's cross-examination during Douglas' fourteen days on the stand brought an admission that he had cultivated friendships among radical and activists on the campus at Bucknell University, where he was released from prison daily to pursue studies even before Father Berrigan came to Lewisburg. Douglas admitted lying to Berrigan when he pretended he was in prison for conspiring to blow up a military convoy carrying napalm while in fact he was in Lewisburg for forgery and assault.

Agent Provocator

The defense maintains that Douglas was an agent provocateur, much like Hardy in Camden, urging priests and nuns and students into various acts of violence including the kidnapping, blowing up heating ducts and destruction of draft records. Under questioning, Douglas admitted lying to the FBI about passing a statement of Father Berrigan's to protesters outside the prison. Douglas also conceded that it was he who suggested to Father Berrigan that the kidnapping would require a gun. The defense produced telephone records indicating that Douglas had originated most of the phone calls between himself and the defendants.

As the government wound up its case against the Harrisburg 7, Douglas was the only one of the government's 47 witnesses who gave any testimony about the plot to kidnap Kissinger and to blow up heating ducts. Thus that part of the indictment will be a contest between his word and that of the defendants. The other witnesses testified about draft board actions, 39 of the witnesses made no connection between any of the seven defendants and draft file destructions in seven cities in the northeast.

The defense has subpoenaed a number of FBI documents in the hopes of demonstrating that Douglas may have been planted as a spy at Lewisburg. Meanwhile the defendants received moral support and promise of financial support from the National Federation of Priests' Councils (which represents more than half of the Roman Catholic priests in the United States) at their convention in Denver last week.

A meeting to help organize the March 25th Children's March for Survival was held in New Haven at Lee High School. Helping with the plans were (above left) Jim Gaito, Executive Vice President of the Conn. Union of Welfare Employees; (above right) Judy Radwang, delegated by workers in the New Haven Welfare Office and (left) Ozzie Edwards, President of the National Federation of Social Service Employees (affiliated with the Conn. Union of Welfare Employees.)

Unity Against Welfare Plan

Continued from page 1

When Ralph Abernathy yielded the microphone to his daughter, she said, "We (children) are determined to get decent housing, education, health care and peace in Vietnam."

50,000 Demonstrators

People on welfare, welfare employees, supporters and politicians came. The 50,000 mostly young people, more than half black, marched with spirit around the Ellipse on the capitol grounds before settling down to speeches and a children's festival.

There were more than 60 sponsoring groups headed by the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), and including some labor unions, childcare groups, women's groups, peace groups, the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the District of Columbia Board of Education.

At planning meetings in the weeks before the march, New Haven participants learned the details of House bill, H.R. 1, one section of which is the family assistance plan.. These meetings resolved that only through a united coalition front can the bill be defeated.

Protest "Slave Wages"

Ozzie Edwards, a welfare worker in New York City and president of the National Federation of Social Service Employees, discussed the bill at a workshop held in Lee High School. He called H.R. 1 a "divide and conquer" mechanism, referring to the fact that one provision calls for welfare mothers to work in the welfare department, taking the jobs of present employees, and getting paid token amounts, or "slave wages".

All 50 participants in the workshop, including welfare mothers and welfare workers from Guilford, West Haven and Bridgeport in addition to New Haven, heartily agreed that this provision to the bill, as well as many others, was not acceptable. For the recipients it would mean working without a salary. For those now working for the welfare department, it would mean undercutting union wages, and weakening all union contracts.

Some of the other parts of the bill cut back on services that have been provided for welfare recipients. Food stamps, medicare and medicaid allotments are all regressive. The working poor, who would be newly eligible for benefits, would not get any medicaid coverage. Daycare provisions for newly working mothers would be substandard, amounting to babysitting with no educational program.

Ribicoff's Bad Role

Connecticut Senator Ribicoff's role in the family assistance plan had been outlined in the New Haven workshops. When the Nixon-Mills bill was sent to the Senate Finance Committee, which Russell Long chairs, Senator Ribicoff offered 15 amendments regarding the family assistance plan. Slight increases in the guaranteed annual income are provided for, but so slight that they would make little noticeable difference to welfare recipients. The Nixon bill allotted $2400 a year to a family of four, less than is now received. Ribicoff's amendment increased this to $3000, less than half of the $6500 figure the government says is needed for a family of four to live on.

The NWRO had prepared signs designed like "most wanted" posters which many marchers in Washington carried, describing Richard Nixon, Abraham Ribicoff, Wilbur Mills and Russell Long as "The D.C. Four Against the Poor".

The National Welfare Rights Organization and various welfare workers unions have been lobbying against the bill as amended.

Lobbying activities will be stepped up this week in Washington as deliberation of the bill begins in the Senate. In New Haven, those groups who organized the trip to Washington will continue to hold workshops and actions on the issues raised by the family assistance plan.

The New York rally will assemble in Central Park, march through the Puerto Rican neighborhoods in Columbus Avenue, and down Broadway to Times Square and Bryant Park. Buses will leave from the New Haven Green at 8 A.M. Saturday morning ($3 roundtrip for schoolbuses or $5 roundtrip for coaches). Call New Haven Peace Action Coalition for information or bus tickets.

Peace Now--Join In April Events

The opposition to the War in Vietnam continues, now five springs after the original escalation. Priests and veterans, among others, have joined what was originally a student led movement as exemplified in the following peace calendar for April.

April 1. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Buses will be leaving from the New Haven Green April 1 for a national peace rally at Harrisburg, scene of the ongoing trial of Catholic anti-war activists (see story above). Among the speakers will be Ralph Abernathy and Dan Berrigan. For transportation ($9 round trip), call Angela Davis Bookstore, 865-5535.

April 2. New Haven. First Unitarian Universalist Society, 608 Whitney Ave. An Easter Peace Program will include a slide show of the "automated air war" and a documentary on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is sponsored by New Haven Peace Action Coalition (NHPAC) 777-4265.

April 15. New Haven. The Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Against the War will conduct a trial of war crimes. There will also be a demonstration on the Green at noon and leafletting in the community, a workshop on GI Resistance in the military at 2:00, and a concert on the Green at 8:00 For details call the Vietnam Veterans at: 777-3051.

April 16. New Haven. Yale's Battell Chapel. A teach-in by the Air War Collective (624-6525).

April 17. Stratford, Conn. A demonstration at the Sikorsky aircraft Plant, beginning in Stratford at 11 a.m. and marching to Sikorsky's main gate at noon. Details may be obtained from Air War Collective (624-6525).

April 19. Speakouts against the war are being planned in local schools. For details call Barry Weissglass at 432-0099.

April 22. New York and Los Angeles. National Demonstrations by the Peace Action Coalition.

Board of Ed Proposal Seeks to Wrest Gains From City Teachers

by Renee Poirier
Modern Times Staff

Negotiations between the New Haven Federation of Teachers (NHFT) and the Board of Education are underway. This year, however, there is a new wrinkle: the Board has proposed to take away teacher union gains won over years of hard bargaining and strikes.

The NHFT, through its proposal is seeking to improve the quality of education and to concentrate on the teachers' main function of teaching. Their proposal calls for sufficient specialists and auxilliary personnel, better teaching facilities and limiting the number of class preparations for each teacher. In terms of salary and benefits, the union wants a wage hike, a reduction in the number of steps needed to attain the maximum wage level, more sick days, an increase in personal days off and improved health insurance coverage.

In its proposal, the Board of Education is trying to save money by not increasing wages and by reducing the number of teachers. The Board wants to eliminate the provision in the present contract requiring it to hire one teacher for every 30 students. Because the board intends to have fewer teachers, it has proposed some changes in the contract to increase workload.

For example, the Board wants to place no limit on the number of preparations required of departmental teachers and to increase the number of teaching periods per day from five to six. The present contract limits the number of preparations to two.

The Board has also proposed that many rights of elementary school teachers, in the present contract, be revoked. The existing agreement states that lunch duty, playground duty after or before school and bus duty are voluntary and paid.

The Board has suggested that these duties no longer be specified as voluntary. For most teachers, without the protection of a contract, these extra jobs would become compulsory and unpaid. The Board could save money by not having to pay a teacher for this service or by not hiring a paraprofessional.

Other changes suggested by the Board to squeeze more out of fewer teachers were to eliminate the two personal days off and to start school on September 1 rather than after Labor Day.

Union Claims Bias In Tenure Refusal

by Jerry Cohen
Modern Times Staff

The University of New Haven has been charged with anti-union and sex bias in their denial of tenure to Prof. Ramona Beeken. These charges were levelled by Frank Connelly, president 2064, American Federation of Teachers in a letter to the dean of arts and sciences at the college.

Prof. Ramona Beeken

Professor Beeken, who has been a part-time teacher at the University for four years and a full time staff member for the past six years, was denied tenure without any explanation. Professors are regularly reviewed for tenure after six years of employment.

The American Federation of Teachers is not currently recognized as a bargaining unit for the UNH faculty, although many professors beong to the union. Professor Beeken has been active in trying to organize the union, and is a delegate to the state labor council.

In an interview with Modern Times Professor Beeken stated, "I can only surmise that since there is only one tenured woman faculty member, there is a strong anti-woman bias. Three other members of the union were also denied tenure by the University this year. They also were not told why, or on what basis this decision was made."

Usually, if tenure is denied a seventh year contract is offered to allow the professor a year to find a position elsewhere. Dr. Beeken and the other faculty members who were denied tenure have not been offered such contracts.

Speaks At SCSC

Stolberg Discusses Case

Having already won his reinstatement, tenure and damages in court, Irving Stolberg returned to Southern Connecticut State College on March 23 and carried his case to an audience of over 100 students.

Stolberg was fired several years ago after he had organized against the war in Vietnam and spoken out on student unrest and deficiencies in the college administration. He is now a professor at Quinnipiac College and a State representative.

Stolberg brought suit against SCSC president Hilton Buley and the Board of Trustees, and won on the grounds of the right to free speech. Damages awarded totaled $9,000.

Speaking at SCSC last week, the professor defined academic freedom as meaning that people don't give up any of their rights by being professors at a state college. He said this entailed having grievance procedures, being able to know who has made charges and what they are, being able to be judged by peers and having faculty control over promotions, hiring, firing and curriculum, with a real input from the students.

In reference to his own case, he pointed out that the former President of SCSC, Hilton Buley, had been with the institution for 17 years and helped very much to build it up physically. But the President didn't "grow and change with the times," Stolberg said.

He pointed out that he made himself unpopular with Buley by "stirring up students" about repression in Argentina, about poor representation of minority groups among students and faculty, about being a part of the center city, and about his open opposition to the war in Vietnam. It was this unpopularity that caused President Buley to stop him from getting tenure in every way possible.

Although the departmental chairman and the students admired Stolberg's work, Buley reported that his teaching was not good. When that didn't work, Buley "stacked" a special tenure committee to deny Stolberg tenure. Stolberg reported that it took two years in the federal courts to get the files opened up so that the case could be built and he won.

Open to Questions

He described the college as a necessarily bureaucratic institution, but as one which must be open to questions from teachers, administrators, students at all times.

He also pointed out that a true sense of community is needed in order for a college to function effectively. "This sense," he said, "is lacking at most institutions where people act one way with their professors, another with their fellow students and still in other ways with their families.

Prof. Irv Stolberg returns to the SCSC campus after winning court battle for reinstatement.

Yale Teaching Assistants Demand New Status

by Doug Bennett and Ellen Comisso
Teaching Assistants Organization

The Teaching Assistants Organization (TAO) an association of Yale graduate students has made a new proposal regarding the status of graduate student teaching at Yale. The TAO statement attacks a memorandum being circulated by Donald Taylor, Dean of the Graduate School. He seeks to tie teaching opportunities to fellowship aid in such a way that the students with the lowest grants would carry the lion's share of graduate student teaching.

The TAO proposal, based on long discussions among TA's from many different departments, sets out a number of principles that should govern any decent arrangment for graduate student teaching.

The first basic principle of the TAO proposal is that all graduate students should have the opportunity to teach while at Yale, and that this should involve as many kinds of teaching experiences as possible (e.g. lecturing, leading seminars, advising, etc.)

The other major principle of the TAO proposal is that graduate students should receive just compensation for any teaching they do in Yale college. Students should not have to work for a low-pay "honorarium" nor should they have to take a cut in their fellowship in order to teach.

TAO presented three alternative programs called "Buy-back, work-study and integration". All the proposals include higher compensation for teaching than did Taylor's and all include provisions for getting course credit for teaching experience.

Taylor's proposal ignores TAO principles and attempts to divert the new militancy among student teachers. It followed Yale's recent wage settlement with the Philosophy TA's. The Philosophy TA's refused to hand in grades and received a raise to $600 per semester. But this settlement is only valid for the current academic year, for now Yale deans say there will have to be some new rules and pay scales for graduate student teaching next year!

Dean Taylor's memorandum tried to set down these "new rules." They include provisions whereby mainly students with low fellowships would have access to teaching. Also, arbitrary ceilings are put on the number of hours one is supposed to spend teaching. A student teaching 12 hours a week is paid $700 a year, while a student who puts in 14 hours a week receives $1050 a year. It is inconceivable how faculty would be paid should such a system by applied to them. Apparently, it will be impossible to spend over 16 hours a week teaching and get paid for it, despite the fact that many TA's now spend 18 - 25 hours a week teaching and there is no reasonable way to reduce the work time.

See YALE TA'S page 11

Editorial

Labor Exits Pay Board Farce

When four of the five labor members of Nixon's Pay Board quit on March 22, they gave one basic reason. The wage-price freeze had favored corporations and capitalists while damaging most wage and salary earners.

The truth of labor's position is easy to prove, using the government's own statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that during Nixon's Phase Two, prices have been rising *faster* than they were in the months before August 15, when the freeze went into effect. The most disturbing figure, wholesale price increases in February at an annual rate of 8.4%, promise an even faster rate of increase in the cost of living in the months ahead.

With these "frozen" prices actually soaring, the comparison with wages is stark. Pay Board Chairman George H. Boldt recently boasted that Phase Two wage increases had been held to an annual average of 4.3%, well below the 5.5% legally allowed.

The labor members of the Board were quite right. The wage-price freeze was really only a wage freeze, lowering labor's share of income while raising that of the corporations and capitalists.

This is not the first time that labor has quit a wage-price control operation set up by a U.S. President. Much the same happened during the Korean War under Harry Truman. Then the whole thing went much faster. There were only two meetings of the Pay Board before labor members saw the handwriting on the wall, quit, and the Pay Board never met again.

We support the position of those labor leaders who saw the injustice, denounced it, and refused any longer to be window-dressing for Nixon's boondoggle to business. We also see a great opportunity now that labor has a free hand.

The labor movement can and, we believe, should take an active, leading role in fighting this unjust "freeze." Exposing what is going on through leaflets, meetings, press statements is an important task. Pressure to reduce prices and raise wages can come from labor-led actions through the courts in legislatures, at the ballot box, rallies, pickets of offending stores and corporations, etc.

The imagination and determination of activated working people with union organization can do for wage-earners what neither business nor a government beholden to business will ever do. Let's seize the opportunity.

Money Talks

ITT DEAL SHOWS HOW AMERICA IS RULED BY THE RICH

by Rick Wolff

Modern Times Staff

ITT agreed to give $400,000 to Nixon to cover the costs of the spectacle he is staging around his renomination in San Diego this summer. In exchange, Washington dropped its court suit against ITT, which allowed the monster corporation to keep its multi-million empire of other corporations — which include the Sheraton Hotel chain, Avis Rent-a-Car, Continental Baking Corp., and twenty others.

ITT got a good deal. The $400,000 was a lot less than what ITT stood to lose if its empire was made a little smaller by the court. Nixon got a good deal: the money to put on a really lavish show of Republican Party splendor for all the TV watchers at the National Republican Convention.

So much for the big winners. What about the rest of us? How are we affected?

ITT Touches Us All

We are all immediately affected in every detail of our lives. Not just by this latest ITT under-the-table deal, but by the thousands of big and little deals of this kind that go on as a matter of course at every level of government.

The way that we are all affected is simply that the power of big chunks of money makes a joke of "American Democracy." The idea of Democracy is that the people rule. Each citizen has roughly equal influence on the decisions being made for the whole community.

While some people claim that every citizen can vote equally, no one can claim that Rockefeller's (or ITT's) influence on political decisions is the same as everyone elses. The fact that Rockefeller has but one vote to cast in his name doesn't matter.

He, like ITT, has another way to make his weight felt. He has money to use economic power.

What ITT couldn't achieve by getting the right votes or laws, it achieved by using cash in the right places.

No Economic Democracy

We all have one and only one vote, "political democracy." But since we definitely do not all have equal chunks of money to throw around, we don't have equal money votes. We do not have economic democracy.

Unequal economic power can and will be used to undo the results of having a voting system that gives each citizen equal voice. That's what the ITT scandal shows and proves.

There can be no *real democracy* in America so long as we permit this undemocratic system to undermine and subvert politics. The way things are now benefits chiefly those who sit at the top of an undemocratic economic system.

"Change It"

As the name of this column says, "Money Talks." The ITT mess helps us to understand how this country works; "the point however is to change it."

Write On

To the Editors:

Seventy striking families are in need of your immediate help. At 7:00 A.M. on March 6, the Franklin City Workers–for whom I am speaking–went on strike.

The strike arose after Mayor E.J.Champagne, Jr. repeatedly refused to recognize our union, which is seeking representation by Louisiana Public Employees Council No. 17 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Workers of the AFL-CIO.

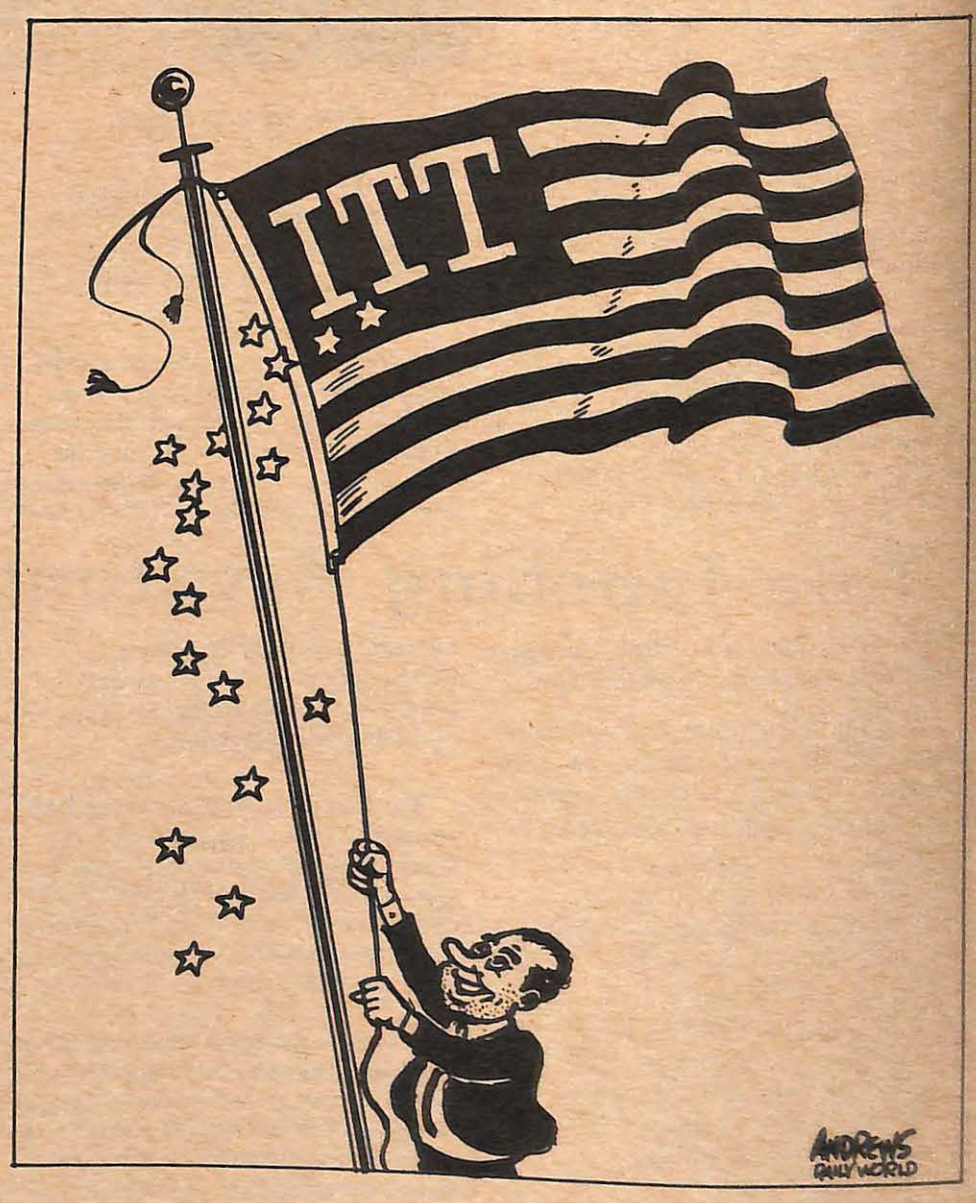
The 70 strikers, mostly black, in this sugar cane town of 10,000 have peacefully demonstrated a tight solidarity. The strikers continue to picket the city facilities and have raised some money locally to keep going.

But the strike continues and we need help from outside. There are threats against the strikers and unsuccessful attempts to infiltrate our union. The strike-breakers have been recruited to destroy our union. They are mostly white. They are driving city trucks without chauffeurs licenses. Some of them are working without medical examinations or insurance coverage. Even 15-year old youngsters are being hired to break our strike.

We need your contribution, no matter how small. Checks should be made out to: Franklin City Employees Local, Mr. Herbert McClarity, Pres., Franklin, La.,70538.

Realizing your genuine concern with human dignity, I seize this opportunity to share our struggle with you. Speaking on behalf of my 70 striking co-workers and their families,

Herbert McClarity ,
Franklin City ,La.



VOLUME II, NUMBER 23
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions: 148 Orange St., New Haven
Editorial Offices: 441 Chapel St., New Haven
562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need–not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, George Andrews, Harry Andrews, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Tony Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Beverly Gouaux, Harry Henderson, Liz Henderson, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Karl Lechow, Art Mazer, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Kathy Quinn, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florie Ricciuti, Dick Wieland, Mary Wieland, Henry Tamarin, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff.

The Nixon Trip To China--What For?

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

Nixon's recent trip to China has raised a lot of interest - and interesting questions. Not the least of which is what did it all prove?

It's pretty obvious to most people that Nixon's visit to China was nicely timed for an election year. It was a "spectacular" good-will trip designed to win friends and influence voters all over the country, especially the liberals who haven't received many such gestures from the President.

It was a gesture that didn't cost him much with more conservative voters either. Most people could respond to the practical explanation, "After all, 'Red' China has been here for 20 years, it has 700 million people, it's obviously going to be around for a while, we might as well face facts and make the best of the situation."

Clearly certain economic interests in this country were pleased with Nixon's visit as well. **Or was it a mere accident that the wavering stock market went up when the President left and that a leading stock brokerage firm, Merrill Lynch, Pierce Fenner and Smith sponsored much of the local television coverage of the trip.** To the more far-sighted business men it must have looked like a good opportunity to beat our Pacific competitor, Japan, to the China market.

Why Did China Change Their Line

But why did the Chinese suddenly change their line and welcome the President of the United States?

It hasn't been emphasized in the American press but the Chinese government has been willing to have normal relations of state with this country for quite some time. In a toast at the Peking reception for Nixon, Premier Chou-En-Lai, stated the conditions for such relations to be "the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefits, and peaceful co-existence."

According to one veteral China-watcher, reporter Wilfred Burchett, this offer had been made in almost identical terms 17 years ago - at the 1955 Bandung Conference. Nixon, however, can take credit (and probably will as election day rolls around) for being the first President in 17 years to respond.

Many Enemies

There are other factors involved in the timing of the visit. Since 1960, China has seen the powerful neighbors which surround her become more or less actively hostile. The United States poured hundreds of thousands of troops and billions of dollars into waging war on her southern border. India has become increasingly trigger-happy and has no other obstacles to expansion toward China now that Pakistan has been split up.

Most important of all, the Soviet Union has ceased to be an ally. One recent traveler to China, William Hinton, emphasized that China views the Soviet Union as such a serious threat to her security that she is building air raid shelters along her northern borders where there are large concentrations of Russian troops. Clearly China feels it would be foolish to sit back and wait for all these unfriendly neighbors to get together and pounce.

So both Nixon and Chou had something to gain from this visit. What did they each give up in exchange? The American president recognized that Taiwan is part of China and promised to withdraw American troops from the island.

This has been interpreted as a major concession to the Chinese. In fact, it is only a small one. The U.S. will withdraw 8,000 American troops from Taiwan. She will leave behind a million man army of Chinese paid for and equiped by American aid.

The question of American support for Nationalist China was not touched by this agreement.

Economic and military aid to Chiang Kai-Shek – who still claims that his is the legitimate government of all China will continue. Nor was anything said about removing the Seventh Fleet - America's naval "presence" in the Pacific – from its major base on Taiwan.

In principle, however, the U.S. did recognize that some day Taiwan will be considered part of China again, leaving unspecified which government it would recognize.

China also budged a little too. She had made a policy to have no minor agreements with the U.S. over trade and cultural exchanges before the major question of American support for Nationalist China was settled. The agreement to undertake certain exchanges - certainly the invitation to Nixon's daughters to visit China - means that China sees that it is in her interest at this moment in history to have greater contacts with the United States even before the major problems are resolved.

Fanshen: Work Of Revolution In China

by Nina Adams

FANSHEN: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village by William Hinton. New York: Vintage Books. $ 2.95. Paperback.

Watching China via satellite, hearing the newscasters and reading the reports, has opened a window on the massive experiment in building socialism that is taking place in China today. It is always difficult to understand events in another country, but it is important to study the socialist experiments as we look for alternatives to monopoly capitalism in America. FANSHEN, by William Hinton, is a good start.

William Hinton was a tractor technician with the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in China, as well as an English teacher there from 1947 to 1953. During the spring and summer of 1948, Hinton was an observer on a work team sent to the village of Long Bow to investigate the land reform. Hinton begins the book: *"Every revolution creates new words. The Chinese Revolution created a whole new vocabulary. A most important word in this vocabulary was 'fanshen.' Literally, it means 'to turn the body' or 'to turn over.' To China's hundreds of millions of landless and land-poor peasants. it meant to stand up, to throw off the landlord yoke, to gain land, stock, implements and houses. But it meant much more than this. It meant to throw off superstition and study science, to abolish 'word blindness' and learn to read, to cease considering women as chattels and establish equality between the sexes, to do away with appointed village magistrates and replace them with elected councils. It meant to enter a new world. That is why this book is called 'Fanshen.' It is the story of how the peasants of Long Bow village built a new world."*

Learning About Real People

Long Bow's people were poor. *"Each day that one survived was a day to be thankful for and so, throughout the region, in fat years and in lean, the common greeting came not to be 'Hello' or 'How are you?' but a simple, heartfelt 'Have you eaten?"*

Hinton tells the history of Long Bow village, and through that history you learn about real people; people that Hinton learned to love:

You see Hu Hsueh-chen, a former beggar, who had watched three children die. After the revolution she gained clothes, a little land, a roof over her head, was elected a group leader in the Women's Association and finally became a leader in the village.

You see Man-hsi, a poor peasant who bullied villagers in his office as policeman before and after the revolution, but who was given a chance to be re-educated, rather than punished.

You see the leadership of the village criticise itself during long, internal discussions and in presentations to all the villagers; you hear Chang Ch'un-Hsi say, *"I hope the delegates will help me to correct my bad behavior."*

You see people, once depressed beyond dreams, finally come alive with hope. After the land reform, the common greeting became *"Have you fanshened?"*

Who Makes the Decisions?

You begin to understand the complex problems of redistributing land and other property. Does a middle peasant with just a little land have to share? Or do the landless, poor peasants only get to divide the property of the landlords and rich peasants? Who makes these decisions? What happens if mistakes are made?

All these people and all these questions are part of FANSHEN. The spirit of the book, as well as the content portrays important truths about the basis for revolution in the old China. We also see that the Chinese revolution with its sudden destruction of the power and privileges of the rich led to rapid social changes which released energy, enthusiasm and confidence. But it also led to excesses and tragedies. Some landlords were beaten to death by crowds of angry people; some hardworking small landholders were wrongly dispossessed; some revolutionary leaders were careless and unjust.

Mistakes Will Always be Made

The clear message of FANSHEN is that in order to build anything mistakes will always be made. There were swings from one extreme to another. Changes had to be made not only in the way people lived, but also in what they thought. In Long Bow, the entire village concentrated, for an extended period, on what was wrong with past policies and the conduct of individual leaders. They did this because mistakes constituted a serious obstacle to future progress, but not because the wrongs outweighed the rights.

Not Utopia, but Progress

When we look at China now, we do not see Utopia; we do not see perfection. What we see is a long, hard struggle; we see a commitment to face errors and to use the intelligence and energy of an entire people to analyze and correct those errors. To build a society whose purpose is the satisfaction of basic human needs is the essence of socialism. China, with its particular problems and history, is struggling to build socialism in its own way. FANSHEN is a beautiful, human picture of that struggle and the positive things that the revolution has done for the people of Long Bow village. It is wordy, perhaps too wordy, but it is important reading for everyone.

Group Urges Somers Probe

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

As the controversy at Somers Correctional Institute continues, a New Haven area citizen and ex-inmate group has joined in efforts to obtain a Legislative investigation of the prison situation. Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI), hopes such an investigation would lead to "effective legislation."

They have proposed a bill, endorsed by over 150 clergy and laymen, which covers inmates' rights, grievance procedure, disciplinary procedures and rights of appealing decisions of discipline.

Legislative hearings are currently taking place at Somers, but proceedings are not being communicated to inmates. In recent testimony, a guard backed up what inmates have reported regarding lack of rehabilitation. He said that programs are not related to diagnostic service findings and inmates are often pulled out of programs shortly before completion.

This compliments testimony of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees representing prison guards earlier this month. They told the appropriations committee of the State Legislature more officers are needed for prison rehabilitation programs.

Ten Points

The call for a special legislative investigation was initiated by the Concerned Citizens for Prison Reform of Hartford. This group has also initiated an open letter to the State Legislature, requesting that in addition to the current hearings at Somers, the state take immediate action on ten points. The points, based on a list of 25 inmate grievances, include the following:

1. Reasonable hourly wage standard to replace present $.35 to $.70 wage for a full eight-hour day.
2. Wages should not be withheld as punishment.
3. Conditions in segregation areas, which do not permit rehabilitation, must be changed.
4. Prisoner grievance committee should be established.
5. Censorship of mail and reading material should be ended.
6. Ombudsmen, independent of the Department of Corrections, should be hired from the community.
7. A rule book should be prepared, as requested by both prisoners and guards to clearly state regulations.
8. Prisoners should have the rights guaranteed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding contact with media.
9. Community groups should be able to meet with prisoners for free and open discussions regarding rehabilitation on a monthly basis.
10. An experimental drug program, related to the Pfizer Drug Company, should be investigated.

The last point refers to an alleged drug program for which inmates can get $100 a month, if they complete their participation. They must sign a statement saying the prison and drug company are not responsible for any damage that the use of the drugs may cause.

The open letter is being circulated throuout Connecticut and will be presented to the State Legislature. The Hartford prison reform group has also been conducting a daily sit-in in Commissioner Manson's office since March 1.

Support Group Holds Vigil At Danbury Prison

by Marion Brown
Committee for Non-Violent Action

Friends of prisoners at Danbury Federal Prison have formed a support group because of concern for nearly 30 men who have been in solitary confinement since February 28 when they began a work strike. *The group was also brought together around the issue of continuing needs of prisoners and their families.*

The prison support group includes families of prisoners, friends of prisoners who visit the men inside frequently, members of the Waterbury Committee for Non-Violent Action, a Catholic nun, Quakers and an active Protestant layman.

The supporters hold a daily vigil at the prison gate which will continue until the final group of strikers is released from solitary confinement. The prisoners supporters have also released to the press the list of 26 grievances the inmate negotiating committee has submitted to the prison administration.

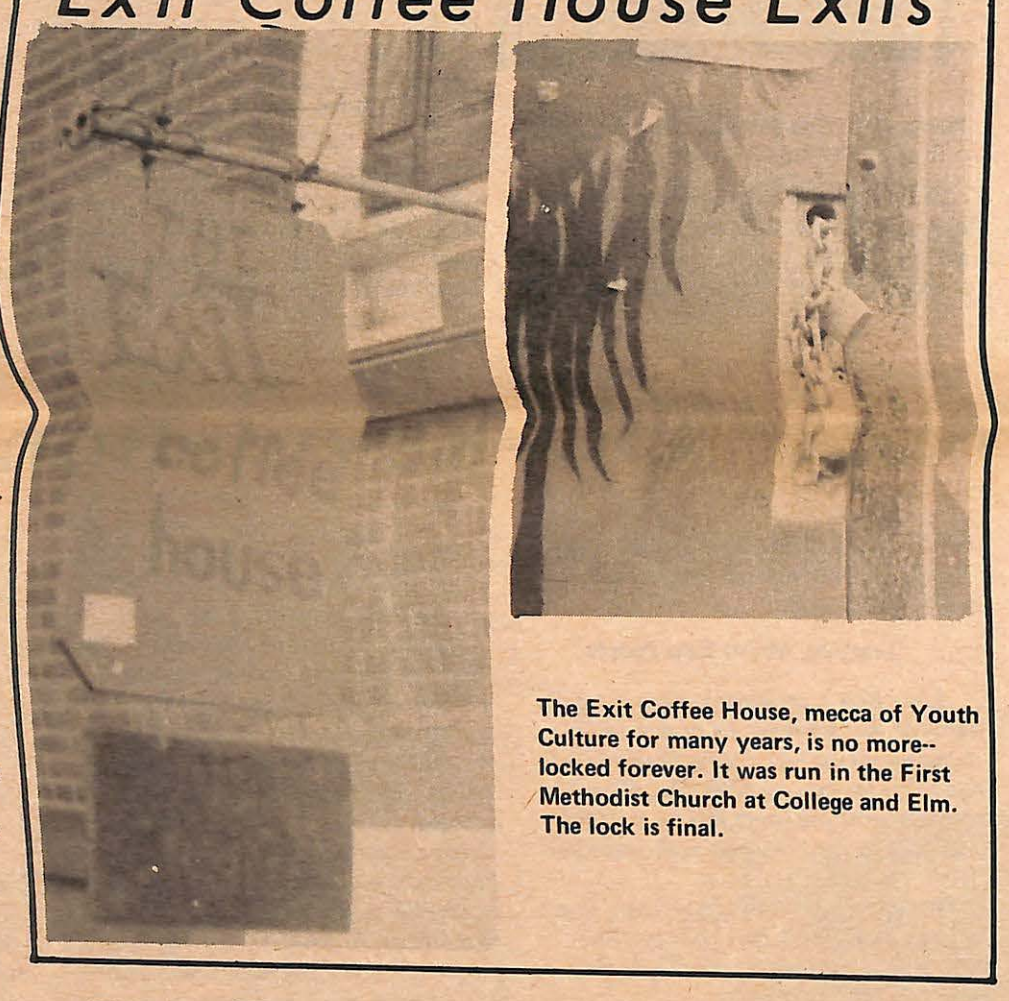
The grievances include complete amnesty for participation in the "peaceful work stoppage," improved wages, expanded educational and recreational facilities with more inamte involvement, increased visiting hours and home furloughs. These demands are rehabilitative, meant to improve living standards within the prison, maintain family unity and ease transition to life outside prison.

The prisoners, in their list of Inmate Grievances and the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, in a habeous corpus action on behalf of prisoner Mitchell Snyder, are challenging the arbitrary manner in which men are put in the "hole" and kept there. Both the prisoners and the CCLU are pressing for the right to due process before being placed in solitary confinement.

The prisoners want to establish an adjustment committee with guarantees that inmates could call witnesses, get charges in writing, have assistance of counsel and the right of cross-examination, etc.

Throughout the List of Inmate Grievances, the prisoners asked to participate in, or at least observe, the decision making process. They further stress that they want to know the guideline by which decisions are made and the reasons for decisions.

Exit Coffee House Exits



The Exit Coffee House, mecca of Youth Culture for many years, is no more-- locked forever. It was run in the First Methodist Church at College and Elm. The lock is final.

A Plea For Life From Death Row

On July 3, 1972 Roberto Delgado is scheduled to be executed in the electric chair at Somers State Correctional Center for the 1967 slaying of Hartford policeman Harvey Young. The last execution in Conn. took place on May 17, 1960 when Joseph "Mad Dog" Taborsky was put to death for a series of six murders in 1956 and 1957.

Mrs. Lydia Camacho, a worker at New Haven's Junta for Progressive Action is attempting to stir community support in an effort to urge the government to change the death sentence to life imprisonment. A petition has already been presented to Governor Meskill's office, but has failed to receive any response.

Attorneys Emanuel Margolis (the highly regarded lawyer who two years ago won a case before the U.S. Supreme Court which abolished punitive procedures by local draft boards) and David Rosen, Assistant Defense Counsel for the recent Bobby Seale Trial in New Haven, have agreed to handle an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court being made by the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union (CCLU) on the Delgado case.

The CCLU in its effort to abolish capital punishment is asking the Legislative Committee on Human Rights and Opportunities (headed by Sen. Wilber Smith and Rep. Leonard Frazier) to raise the issue on the grounds that it is mostly members of minority groups who are executed. It is shown below how statistically the number of minority group members on death row is highly disproportionate to their representation in the overall population: Blacks are 10% of the population in the U.S.

Race **Black**
App. Percent of the 694 Total on Death Row **49.6%**

Race **Other Minorities**
App. Percent of the 694 Total on Death Row **3.1%**

Race **White**
App. Percent of the 694 Total on Death Row **44.1%**

Race **Unknown**
App. Percent of the 694 Total on Death Row **3.2%**

The Constitutionality of Capital punishment is presently being challenged in the U.S. Supreme Court on the grounds that the eighth Amendment bars cruel and unusual punishment. The life of Roberto Delgado and 693 other prisoners on death row (362 of which are either Black or of another minority group) may be dependent upon the court's decision, which is to be handed down before the term ends in June.

Big Turnout Supports Project Enough

Project Enough, a community group of young residents in the Fair Haven neighborhood, appeared in review before a committee of the Board of Aldermen on March 22. Project Enough has asked for use of the Lloyd St. School for their programs, which are designed to give young people an alternative to drug addiction and crime.

Several Board members recently attempted to scuttle the unanimous support given by the Board of Aldermen to Project Enough in December, 1970. They claimed that the group had lost community support, and in testimony March 22, they added that Project Enough was not "professional" enough.

Project Enough Director, Tony Proto, called on a wide range of speakers testifying to Project Enough's community support and professionalism.

Among community leaders who spoke in favor of Project Enough were: Frank Annunziato, President, and Sam Miller, Vice Director, of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation, respectively; George Sprague of the Italian-American Civil Rights League; Eunice Lomar of the Fair Haven Parents Ministry; Alan DeLisle, alderman from the 12th ward, and John Torello, Director of the New Haven Redevelopment Agency.

Among the professionals who spoke in favor of the program were: Hank Mandel of the Drug Dependence Unit which has trained over 1300 drug rehabilitation personnel across the country; Herbert Kleber of the Connecticut Mental Health Center and chairman of the governor's task force on drugs; Eileen Benoit, senior probation officer of the Sixth Circuit Court; and Marjorie Bayes of the Connecticut Mental Health Center.

Speakers from Project Enough, in addition to Tony Proto, included Mary Wieland, Katherine Quinn, Ellen Quinn, and Andrew Calandrello.

Parents Ministry 5th Year Fete

The Fair Haven Parents Ministry, one of the most effective grass-roots community groups in the city, celebrated its fifth anniversary on March 16. Over a hundred people came to the Foxon Country House for an evening of dinner, dancing, and speeches.

The main address was delivered by Dr. Yosef Be Jochannan, an expert on African history. Robert Jones, the executive director of the Ministry also spoke on "The Ministry and Its People," giving a general description of their involvement in the community.

New Officers were installed. They include Mrs. Idabell Bruce, President; Miss Pearlie Boykin, Secretary; Mrs. Helen Boykin, Asst. Secretary; Mr. James McDonald, Treasurer; and Mr. John Wiley, Asst. Treasurer.

The Ministry has a paid staff of nine neighborhood workers. Among their services are a day care center, discount stores on Grand Ave. and Goffe Street, and free transportation services.

Music for the Anniversary was provided by Julius and the Soul Corrupters.

Labor Moves Ahead

Voice For Rank-and-File

by Mike Holodnak

Brother Tinker is correct when he stated in his recent **Modern Times** article (March 1, 1972) that when newspapers, ranging from the liberal **New York Times** to the conservative **New Haven Register**, criticize unions most working people are not surprised, and it is generally good for a chuckle.

OK, so we all know that no self-respecting union leader should be concerned when the commercial press badmouths him. It's when it starts to heap praises upon him that he should begin worrying.

With that out of the way I believe it is quite legitimate for unionists to speak freely of the problems that unions face daily.

However, according to Brother Tinker, unions have no problems. What problems might exist he attributes to members not attending union meetings.

It's a good cop-out, but it doesn't solve anything.

He talks about how unions are more democratic than our government, claiming that union leaders can be recalled and impeached "simpler than getting rid of an alderman."

Yet, I've seen aldermen, and even U.S. presidents come and go. But people like George Meany go on and on.

The Locals, on the other hand, generally are much more democratic. However, because their policies are strongly influenced by the Internationals, all the changes that take place on the Local level are nothing more than a game of musical chairs. Only faces keep changing. The stagnant policies remain the same, with the net result that the rank-and-file are betrayed.

Union Officials Hamstrung

Yet, this betrayal is not intentional, as I've pointed out many times. The tragedy is that most of the selling out is done by perfectly honest people who sincerely desire to do a good job for the membership that elected them. But because union policies are based on the principles that labor and management are partners, every union official is hamstrung. Therefore, there's no really effective way to combat speed-ups, sexism, racism, unsafe plants, run-away plants, unemployment, etc. So, after innumerable frustrations, they end up compromising with the bosses to at least get some of the crumbs. And the union members become apathetic and no longer bother to attend meetings.

It's obvious then that it's not simply good one's against bad ones, but rather good policies against old-worn-out bad policies.

As to what kind of change and how it is to be brought about, that is the main problem. But one thing is for sure. No magic leader or Messiah will bring about the changes that will turn the union from its present disastrous course. The only people who can do this is the rank-and-file itself.

It's hard to build a strong organized movement of working people. But this is what we must have to bring about the progressive changes America so badly needs. There are many different views on how to do this. We open this column to you, our readers, to exchange ideas and to discuss tactics and strategies. Please send us your ideas and your responses to what you read here.

For starters they must oppose the concept of class partnership that has for too long bogged down unions. Fight the deep rooted racism by uniting both blacks and whites around the common cause that "a hurt to one is a hurt to all." And establish alliances with community groups dedicated to people's welfare. *Today this is much more possible than it was ten years ago.*

This does not mean "withdrawing the militant unionists into enclaves to conduct guerilla warfare against his or her officers," as Brother Tinker believes. Instead, it means working within the Locals as is being done by the rank-and-file groups in the United Steelworkers Union who recently met in the Youngstown Ohio coalition convention.

Right now it is the employers who are benefitting and they will continue to overload their Swiss bank accounts to the detriment of all workers for as long as unions remain on their present course.

New Directions For Labor

Higher Pay Not Enough

by Joe Tinker

For a long time editorial writers and many economists have tried to make a case that there is direct relationship between wages and prices. They wrote all sorts of articles about the 'wage-price spiral'. Unfortunately, many, too many, working people bought this idea although they felt that the only way to lick the problem was to fight for higher wages.

Nixon's wage and price freeze should lay this to rest. The 'freeze' proved that even when wages are frozen, prices keep climbing up and up. This has always been the situation. Living costs always move faster than earnings. Government statistics never reflect all expenditures.

We can expect that economic controls will continue for some time since none of the candidates, Democrat or Republican, has come out against them. With a wage freeze being the heart of the program, wage earners will bear the major load.

Therefore, effective consumer action can no longer be avoided by the unions. There is no way to protect union members' earnings except on two levels—*on the job where it is earned and off the job where it is snatched away.*

Job Related Expenses

A glaring example is in medical plans. In many instances unions have had to go on strike for such plans. The immediate reaction to this was increased hospital rates, medical fees, etc. Who won? The workers got some benefit, but not as much as the medical establishment.

Another example of a job related expense is transportation. Many plants and offices which were located in town have moved out. Two recent examples are Marlin and Gant. Where previously the employees could walk or take a bus, they now need a car, or longer bus rides at higher fares. A few dollars more each week out of the same pay check.

Everyone is complaining about the increase in food prices. But nothing is being done about stopping them. Conferences have been held by unions and consumer groups, people are sent out checking prices, collating them and then turning them into the I.R.S. Junior T-men. Does anyone really imagine that Nixon's Treasury Department will crack down on supermarkets?

Unions don't get higher wages by "collecting the facts." The fight against all forms of gouging—prices, rents, taxes, etc.—will only succeed through strong collective action. Picket lines, boycotts, demonstrations, political pressure are actions union members can understand and participate in.

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

In the last issue of **Modern Times** Rick Wolff's column dealt with taxes and made it clear who pays and who doesn't. This would come as no surprise to anyone who draws a paycheck. You work one day each week for the government—about 20% is deducted for taxes. On top of that there are federal, state and local taxes on cigarettes, gasoline, beer, and whiskey, tires, etc.—in addition to the sales tax on just about everything. And for the real topper there is the property tax—a tax on a tax. A fair guess might be that at least one-third of earnings are eaten up by one tax or another.

These apparently aren't enough so the state legislature is busy deciding whether to hit us with an income tax or raise the sales tax. The reaction of the unions is disappointing. They came out in favor of an income tax. Nobody apparently questioned the whole idea—are more taxes necessary? Because when push comes to shove, the main load will again fall on those already over-burdened with taxes.

The unions should react by saying "Go find another way to raise money."

All this adds up to the obvious point, that if workers are forced to engage in struggles to win higher wages, they have to be ready to fight just as hard to retain those gains in the marketplace.

Yale Sweet Talk Turning Sour

Continued from page 3.

least, employees were led to believe that. But the editorial on the first issue states "Material is selected from actions, reports, and documents which have official faculty or administration origins... letters to the editor will not be published."

This is Yale's idea of communication, they tell you.

One of the articles pertaining to non-faculty employees described the "grievance procedure." The final step is a committee which "will be composed of three members and permanently chaired by the Director of Personnel. The Chairman will choose the other two members on a case-by-case basis."

This is Yale's idea of justice, they tell you.

The other article describes the maternity leave benefit, which is to come back without loss of "seniority." It is, of course, unpaid.

YNFAC would like to see maternity leave on full salary and to include paternity responsibilities also. After all, who's to take care of the new mother and family after leaving the hospital. Only in the most primitive societies are mothers expected to resume work immediately after giving birth! Sick leave should also be based on the family's needs.

Alumni Article

The article in the Yale Alumni Magazine was an interview with two Yale Law School professors who specialize in labor law. I quote some of the interesting passages:

"I tend to think that, aside from faculty, most of the employees at Yale ought to be unionized. That seems to me the only way that they can present their position as an interest group."

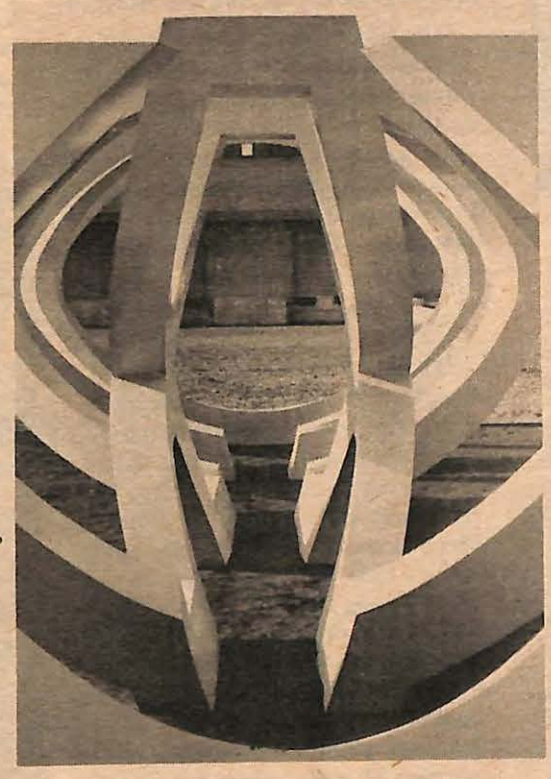
"There's no question that the presence of a union focusing attention on particular problems **compels** *the employer to examine things that otherwise, particularly in a bureaucratic structure, simply drift along and become entrenched, almost immune to any real questioning."*

The first quote is from Harry Wellington and the second is from Clyde Summers, both professors of law at Yale.

YNFAC's Response

YNFAC appreciates these truths, but wishes that representatives of the non-faculty had been asked their views on these subjects also. It seems that even when the truth can be told, Yale does not feel that the non-faculty employees are responsible enough to tell it.

Look What We Found



Drive out to Sackett Point Road in North Haven on a Sunday afternoon. There you'll find in a large field next to Lippincott Inc. an array of steel and concrete sculpture. The faces below look like they come from Easter Island. The swirly structure to the left is fun to climb on. (M-T photos by Matt Borenstein.)

CHAPLIN: THE LITTLE FELLOW RETURNS

MODERN TIMES (1936)

By Peter O'Connell
Modern Times Staff

The following is the first half of a two-part article dealing in some detail with the life, art, and politics of Charlie Chaplin.

Twenty years ago, the creator of The Little Tramp was given the bum's rush by right-wing politicians and went into what amounted to political exile. This month he's coming back for the first time –to be treated like "a King in New York." In September 1952, while on a trip to Europe, Charlie Chaplin had his re-entry permit to the United States, where he had lived for forty years, revoked by the Attorney-General amidst charges that he was a "pro-communist subversive" and guilty of "moral turpitude." On April 10, 1972, after lavish welcoming ceremonies in *New York, Chaplin will be given a special Academy Award in Hollywood.*

Welcome home, Charlie!

SHOULDER ARMS (1918)

Charlie Chaplin first caught America's eye in a one-reeler in 1914 when, playing a little guy with a smear of a mustache, he stumbled into the middle of a children's auto race. The police entered, wild confusion reigned, and the cameras caught it all. Within months, as film followed film, Chaplin became famous, acclaimed by critics as a comic genius, and beloved by hundreds of millions throughout the country and around the world. The love affair between Charlie and his audience lasted for decades and scores of films until finally the witch-hunters tried to break it up with their attacks.

Universal Appeal

They couldn't succeed for very long, though, because people everywhere could see part of themselves in Chaplin's famous character, "the little fellow," and never forgot what they saw. The tramp could be of any country and of any time. In appearance he could be of any age from 20 to 55. Chaplin described his costume in the following way:

"That costume helps me to express my conception of the average man, of almost any man, of myself. The derby, too small, is a striving for dignity. The mustache is vanity. The tightly buttoned coat and the stick and his whole manner are a gesture toward gallantry and dash and 'front.' He is trying to meet the world bravely, to put up a bluff, and he knows that, too. He knows that so well that he can laugh at himself and pity himself a little."

Chaplin worked hard to create this character of universal appeal. He once wrote: "There is no study in the art of acting that requires such an accurate and sympathetic knowledge of human nature as comedy work. To be successful in it, one must acquire the gift of *studying men at their daily work.*"

Survival, Dignity, Change

Charlie's keen eye for detail was, in a sense, a necessity for survival. He knew what it was like to have to work to live and what it was like not to be able to get work. He was born in 1889 in London to parents who were a mixture of Jewish, English, French, Irish, and Spanish. His father died an alcoholic, and Charlie had to live in the city streets doing odd jobs to support his ill mother. He always remembered his childhood. "I've known humiliation. And humiliation is a thing you never forget. "Poverty--the degradation and helplessness of it! I can't feel myself any different, at heart, from the unhappy and defeated men, the failures." At age seven, he began a grueling vaudeville career, singing, dancing, and clowning, in second-rate theatres all over England and America.

Chaplin struggled to survive and achieved success by recreating in comic forms tactics for survival with dignity on the margin of life in a warlike world of bosses and bullies--both in and out of uniform. His comic forms were of amazing variety from practical jokes to deep pathos, but their essence, though, was change.

The Gold Rush

Let's look at just one example of the comedy of change in action. In *The Gold Rush* (1925) the tramp is trapped in a snowbound cabin with a prospecter. There is no food, but Charlie is resourceful. He spots the potentialities of a candle. He nibbles it, salting it like a stalk of celery. Later, on Thanksgiving Day, Charlie is so hungry that he cooks up one of his own long, flat, floppy shoes. As expertly as a French chef, he lifts the shoe from the smoking pot, tries a fork in it to see if it is done, places it on a dish, bastes it, sharpens his knife, carves it, separates the uppers from the sole, attacks the sole with a gourmet's gusto, twists the shoelaces around his fork like spaghetti, and sucks the nails as if they were marrow bones. Discovering a nail bent in the shape of a wishbone, he holds it out to the stunned prospecter.

As American society rushed on in the Roaring Twenties seeking after gold and hungry for power, Chaplin began to see that the rigid individuals and institutions--the rich, the police, the military, the churches--that kept putting his character through changes were really part and parcel of a total system, not just a series of separate traps. The artist was too individualistic--in both the good and bad senses of that word--to be a follower of a party or a propagandist of an ideology, but he did begin to speak out on politics and economics from time to time.

In one speech, he said: "I would have government ownership of banks and change many of the laws and those of the Stock Exchange. I would control prices, interest, and profits.... My policy would stand for internationalism.... My policy would stand for the reduction of the hours of labor and for a minimum no less than a comfortable amount to all men and women over the age of twenty-one."

Chaplin's strongest statements, though, were always those of his art. In the midst of the Great Depression of the thirties after the great gold rush of the twenties, his social concerns and his comic art merged to produce the masterpiece **Modern Times.** In **Modern Times,** the tramp becomes worker and a --gentle--rebel.

Next Issue: Chaplin and the Witch-Hunters.

THE KID (1921)

HSC Students Theatrical Debut
Three Plays Are Smashing Success

by Mary Jones
Guest Reviewer

The members of the Olive Branch Drama Society of the High School in the Community, Unit 2, made their theatrical debut with three smashing sucesses. In the evenings of March 17, 18, and 19 they performed **This Property is Condemned** by Tennessee Williams, **Peace ,Peace ,My Ass** by Bonnie Yopp, a student at HSC, and **Lysistrata** by Aristophanes.

The first two plays were about young girls trying to deal with their worlds. In **This Property is Condemned**, the girl creates a fantasy that she is living the romantic life which her sister has lived as a prostitute. In **Peace, Peace, My Ass**, a black girl discusses her confusion at having to choose between a cold mother and a drunken father who have just gotten a divorce. Both plays were acted with sincerety and understanding.

Lysistrata, as directed by Kathy Cash, an English teacher at HSC, was the major play of the evening. **Lysistrata** is a Greek comedy about love, sex and war. The men of Athens have been at war so long that the women decide to force them to make peace. They decide to withhold their affections until there is peace. A pun-riddled battle of the sexes over political power ensues.

The players created an atmosphere filled with vitality and enthusiasm. The audience was drawn into the production. With the men seated on one side and the women on the other, everyone seemed open to root for their side. The sets and costumes were imaginative and lively. The least that I can say is, "Congratulations." I had a great time.

Chorus of women in production of *Lysistrata* at HSC, Unit 2. (M-T photo by Paul Gill.)

PERISCOPE
On The Environment

ROWING COURSE ESCALATION

Would you like a 200 car parking garage over West River Park?...a 25,000 person grandstand?...a restaurant? All this and more may be in store as Yale (disguised as the mild-mannered International Rowing Course Foundation) puts on another push to usurp city parkland. Come to a meeting on Thursday evening, April 6 in the Aldermanic Chambers to check out the details.

Fortunately, the Department of Environmental Protection plans to designate part of the West River Park rowing course site as tidal marshes, which could block escavation for the rowing lagoon on part of the site. A hearing on the boundaries will be held April 18, 7:30 P.M. at the Hall of Records. A copy of the map depicting boundary lines and biological report will be available at the Town Clerk's office, City Hall, from 9 A.M. to noon, and 1-4 P.M.

POWER PLAY

The Court of Common Pleas in New Haven has given the UI company permission to build foundations for its controversial overhead lines running from its Grand Avenue plant to Morris Cove. With foundations built UI would be in a stronger position to win its case for overhead lines. Evidently the Court views a private company as a more important constituency than neighborhood organizations or even its elected officials in city government who have vehemently opposed the lines.

WATERSHED SHENANIGANS

The attempted rip-off of the landscape and the consumer by the New Haven Water Company (see article p. 11) demonstrates the irrationality of having a public utility in private hands. According to the company charter, the city of New Haven has the option in 1975 to buy out the Water Company. The city should take this opportunity, making sure that the Water Company does not completely destroy and sell off its holdings before then.

If the Water Company feels it can sell its watershed for development, why not have some of its lands opened to public recreation instead? This proposal deserves serious study from the point of view pf public need and potential environmental impact. For example, Lake Whitney is probably suitable for recreational uses such as boating and swimming without a significant effect on water quality. (I have seen boys walk from the lake with big strings of calico bass and big smiles.)

WHY NOT NEW HAVEN???

Canberra, Australia—Higher rates for parking and good public transportation in Canberra *have lowered air pollution levels in the city by 40%.*

Vienna, *Austria—A 0.7 mile "environmental oasis" is being planned which would* allow only pollution free mini-buses and taxis.

Oregon, U.S.A.—One percent of the tax on gasoline is being earmarked for the construction of bicycle paths in the state.

Group Fights Water Co. Over Rigged Land Sale

by David Emerson

S.C.S.C. Environment Council

A new environmental group, the Environmental Protection Association of South Central Connecticut (EPASCC), has formed to fight the New Haven Water Company's proposal to sell three parcels of land to its own development corporation. The development corporation will be managed by the Water Company officials.

According to Mrs. Joyce Phipps, a member of the Hamden Anti-Pollution Task Force and the League of Women Voters, "Many of Connecticut's environmental problems are regional problems that can only be attacked effectively on a regional scale. Existing citizens ' groups are often restricted by town boundaries while public utilities, for example, are not."

Mrs. Phipps states, "One of the crucial questions is whether a public utility exists for the public or for the company. The New Haven Water Co. has received substantial tax breaks from the town and they have a moral obligation to preserve these lands and to maintain them as open spaces. If the lands can be safely used, let the people use them!"

The EPASCC has retained legal counsel and feels that while private lands are protected by the courts, public lands are not. This issue joins similar cases which find other public utilities involved in legal action.

State Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Dan Lufkin is also on record as opposing the sale.

While the Water Co. issue is the unifying force behind the formation of the new group, EPASCC's leaders hope to maintain a viable environmental protection organization in this region. Any similarly concerned citizens, or other environmental organizations, can contact vice-chairman Ted Reid at 248-1811.

The binding issue is the planned sale by the New Haven Water Company of three tracts of Land in Hamden to its own development corporation, Newat Co. (New Water Co.?). The land was purchased by the Water Co. in 1890 for approximately $8000. The three tracts are now valued at over $1,000,000, but the Water Co. plans to sell the land to Newat Co. for less than $20,000. A state law requires that public utility lands be first offered for sale to the town or to the state. Mayor William Adams, of Hamden, indicates that the town is definitely an interested buyer at the lower price.

Charles Woods, Water Co. president, indicates that "the sale of these lands is necessary to attract new capital investors. The lands are no longer needed as watershed protection and can be safely developed." The new group again counters with the argument that the Water Co. should exist only to serve the public.

The new group, under the chairmanship of Eugene "Gus" Seder, is a coalition of already existing community groups. Some of the member groups are the Hamden Anti-Pollution Task Force, the Whitneyville Civic Association, the Bethany and North Branford Conservation Commissions, the Environmental Awareness Council of Southern Connecticut State College and the League of Women Voters of Bethany, Branford, Hamden and West Haven , among others.

Yale TA's Organize

Continued from page 5.

Not many teaching assistants have seen Taylor's memorandum. He seems more interested in the reaction of the faculty than in the viewpoint of the TA's themselves. But the TA's who have seen the memorandum don't like it a bit. Through TAO, many of us have already begun to fight for higher wages for this year. We came to Yale to become teachers and discovered that the only way to get any teaching experience was by letting Yale exploit us. Now they have decided that we do put in a lot of time and so are nominally raising our wage to what it should have been for the last five years. Meanwhile, fellowships get smaller and smaller, while we pay taxes on our earnings. And still the Yale administration approaches the problems of teaching opportunities, compensation and responsibilities in a fragmented manner, seeing the parts for the whole. Not only are graduate students thus exploited economically; they are also educationally cheated. The TAO program seeks to remedy the situation; organized, graduate students will be heard.

SUPPORT THE I.R.A.

DINNER DANCE IN AID OF THE PROVISIONAL I.R.A.

MENU-CHICKEN—

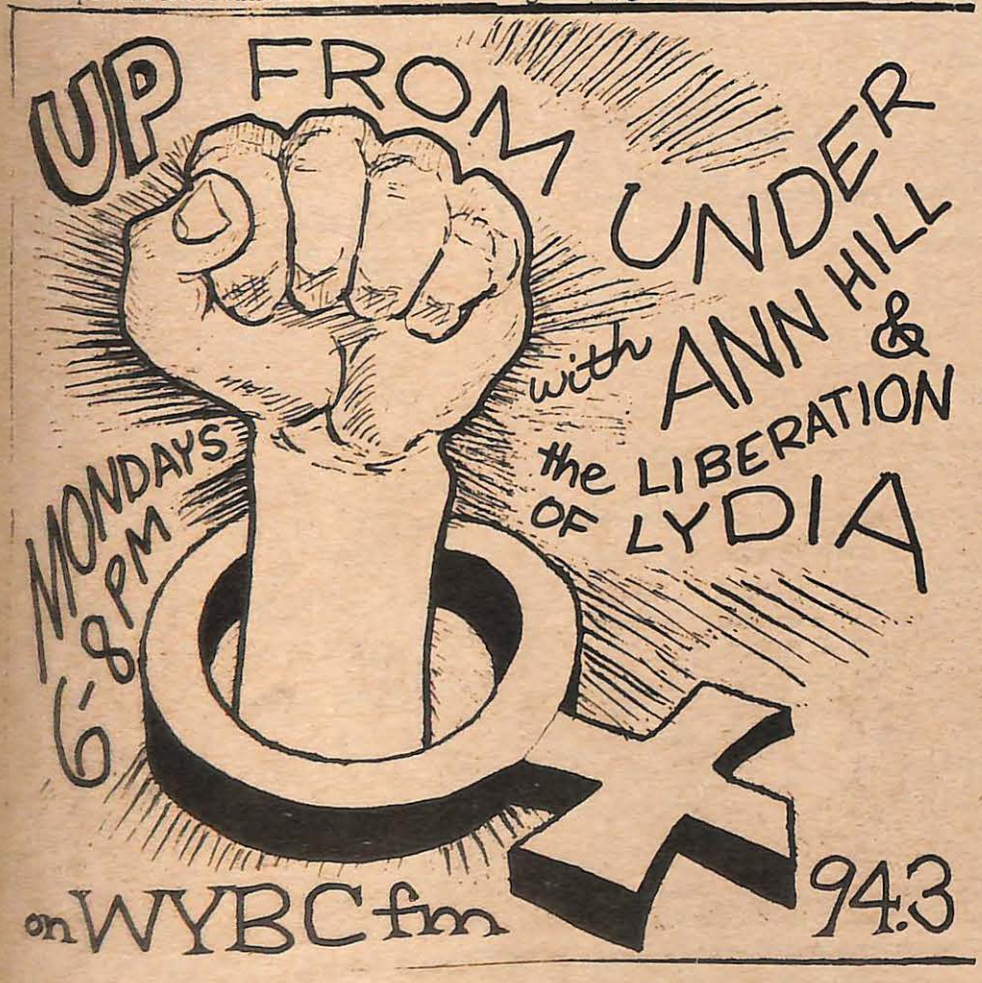
TICKETS — $10.00

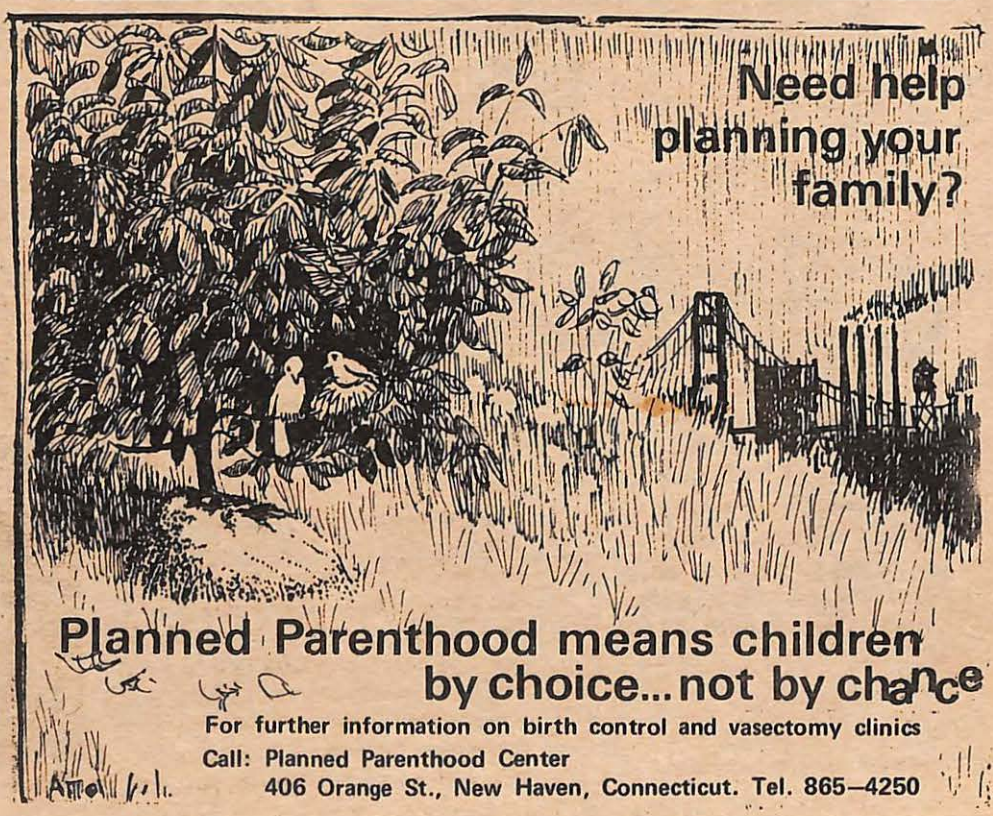
APRIL 15 1972 8:00 p.m.
AT NEW HAVEN GAELIC CLUB
VENICE PLACE EAST HAVEN

Tickets may be purchased by calling
469-9484 after 8:00 pm

contributions may be mailed to
THE NEW HAVEN GAELIC CLUB
C/O John O'Keefe

WE NEED YOU NOW!!




Need help planning your family?
Planned Parenthood means children by choice...not by chance
For further information on birth control and vasectomy clinics
Call: Planned Parenthood Center
406 Orange St., New Haven, Connecticut. Tel. 865—4250

On The Job

Office Work Is A Mixed Bag

An Office Worker in a Manufacturing Plant in New Haven

When young people imagine an office they think of something different than the office I work in. This office has to be used by the shop people, the foremen, the supervisors, in fact, almost anybody that comes in there for supplies. Employees usually come in when there's something wrong.

I'm basically a clerk. What I do is keep track of all of what people do in the the shop so that there's some kind of feed-in to the computer. I keep production records of the different operations, how many of different sorts of things are made. Then on occasion I also do some shipping work or first aid. I give out supplies. I pretty much know an awful lot about the office – probably more than anybody else there because I've been there many years.

The thing I like, that fits my job to me, is that I'm pretty independent. I don't like somebody standing over me, giving me orders. It's a small enough company that we know most of the people in management. I mean our portion of the company is that small, and when I went to work there, the whole company was that small. A big company bought it.

Sympathy with Shop Workers

Certain phases of my job are monotonous and I dislike monotony. I also dislike the conditions I see people working under in the shop. Not the office, but the shop – you see people work there for years with the fumes and the heat and sometimes the cold and the rain and the snow coming in. The building is very old. Since this company bought it the only improvements they have made are on the machinery to produce more. Now with the stress on the federal law on safety and health I think there will be more emphasis on trying to implement improvements in working conditions.

When the roof leaks whoever it's leaking on goes to their committeeman in the union. The committeeman goes to the foreman and the foreman goes to his boss. His boss says, "Mr. So-and so, why didn't you call those people in the last time like I told you?" "Well, we did call them in, we got one or two estimates and somebody said it was too high to fix it and we're going to get somebody else." "All right, get them in!"

So somebody will come in and look at it again. The man will explain to the foreman, the foreman will explain to the committeeman, the committeeman to the worker and by that time it's stopped raining. Then it all starts again. Water comes in our office too sometimes, but it isn't by my desk – it's by the foreman's!

Just the whole idea that in 1972 employees have such bad working conditions . . . They don't earn very much money. The air is bad to breathe. They have no lunch room or any place to go and they have to sit by the machine – machines that make metal, that are old and greasy. There's just something about the dignity of the human being that I feel is affected.

Need for Union

The shop workers are protected by a union. As far as my job is concerned, I don't feel threatened. They're getting a good bargain from me. They pay me well, but I also work that much. So in a way they need me. I don't mean that they'd go under if I didn't work there, but all in all it's worth dealing with me.

Every so often there has been an attempt to organize the office workers, but there's never been a really concerted effort beforehand to talk to people and involve them before an actual vote is taken. Out of the blue you get something in the mail.

There would be a real point in organizing us, if not now, then certainly soon. Because what I see happening with this larger company is that there'll be more and more expected of workers for the same pay. The company has been run almost like a family thing. Everybody knew everybody. And if you were out for any length of time – I get ten sick days – I'm sure they would extend that even more. And even now if you're late or you take a few hours off, they still pay you. They're not picayune about things. But I think in time they will be.

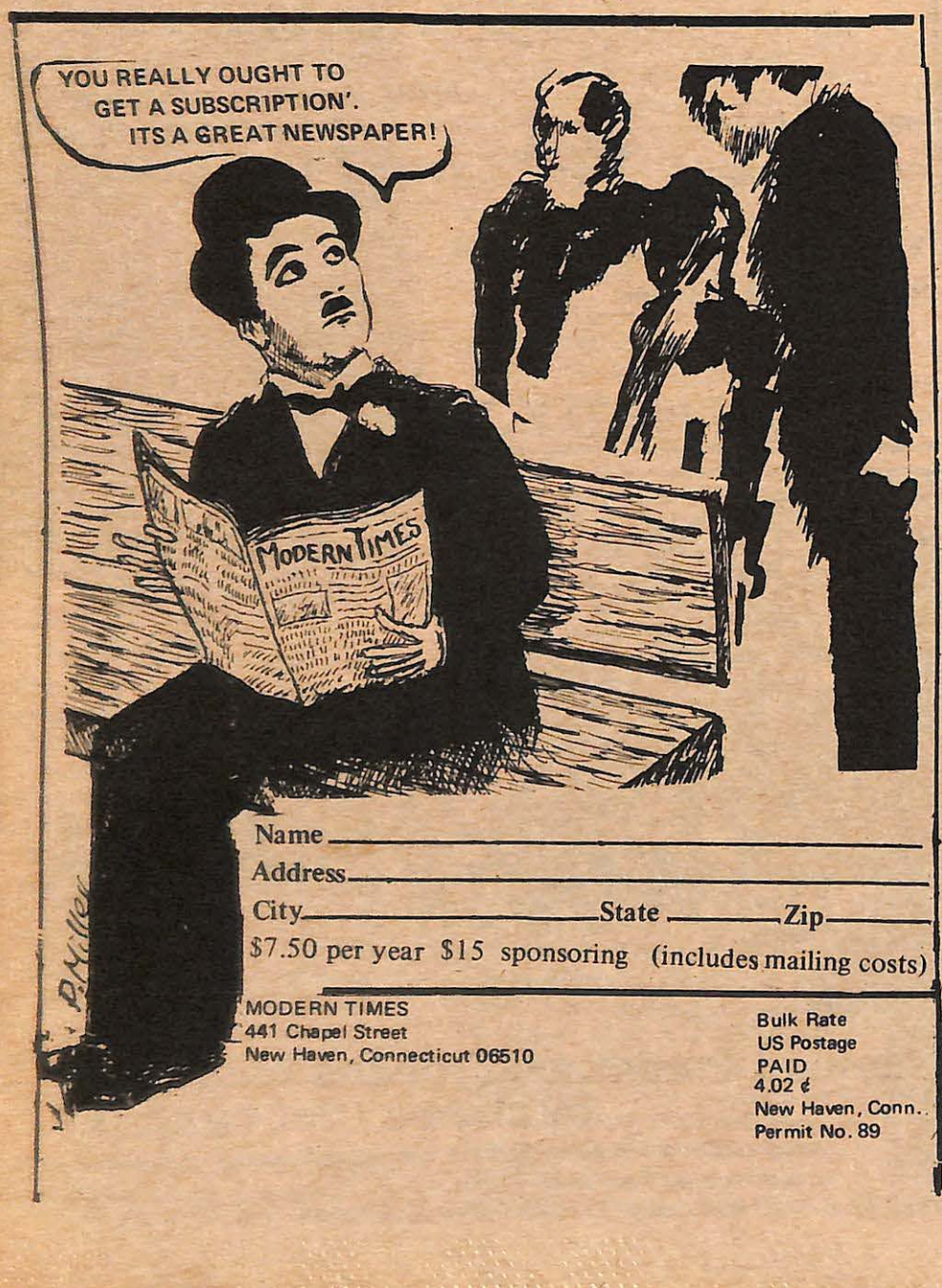
Insensitivity

I see an awful lot of insensitivity at work. I think we're creating a whole computer generation. Like say a guy works on payroll and he runs things through a computer. It might make a $20 mistake on a man's pay, a man that doesn't earn very much money. He'll acknowledge the mistake and say, well, I'll pay you next week. It won't ever reach him just who this man is and how much that $20 means to him and how hard he worked the week before for it.

Our place is interesting because we have blacks and Puerto Ricans mostly. None of the foreman, or even assistant foreman, are black. Of course they've come up through the shop too. Most of them are Italian. They started the plant and did the labor and the ones that were over them were WASPS. And some of them will never go on any further. Things have changed so much. All they are is the guys that are pushing and pushing and pushing to get the men to work. And they have an insensitivity to the people they're pushing sometimes.

There are some women in the management, like my immediate boss, and women in the union. Women in management aren't recognized at all. The only way management gets together is they have a management club, but none of the women can be in it. Women in the union are protected, but they do work under the lowest labor grade. Now whether that's by chance or by design, don't know. They do make good money though. The time standards are set loose enough so that they make good money. Some make $26-27 a day.

Sometimes I enjoy my job very much. Other times I hate it – different days I have different reactions. I like dealing with people. I find I have enough leeway on the job to deal with people. Very often I can intervene in situations and help them. I like that part of it, and they trust me – it's a rewarding kind of thing.



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

$7.50 per year $15 sponsoring (includes mailing costs)

MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
4.02 ¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89

Classified

Seeking individual who enjoys four-hand piano playing as a pastime, particularly someone who can sight-read and has a good sense of timing. I have piano and enough music to keep us going for a while. Call 865-0917, 5:30-7:30pm or weekends.

Typing. Call Sally, 562-0058, 9-5.

Joan Stone-- "Clear Me a Space and I'll Danc About Rosa Luxembourg"

The University of New Haven Library Fund-Raising Committee presents an evening of solo dances, choreographed and performed by Joan Stone. This consists of an epic dance in five parts dealing with the life of Rosa Luxembourg.

The performance will be held of Thursday, April 20, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the Student Center Lounge on the University Campus. The price of admission will be $1:00 at the door.

ANGELA DAVIS BOOKSTORE
MONTHLY FORUM

VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION

A NEW BOOK BY LE DUAN
VIETNAMESE WORKERS PARTY

THE PLAN FOR SOCIALIST
ORGANIZATION
IN
NORTH VIETNAM
OUTLINED
FOR THE FIRST TIME

discussion led by MIKE ZAGARELL
recently returned from north vietnam,
national officer, young workers liberator
league

******* narmic air war slide show ******

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 7:00 PM

425 COLLEGE STREET
FREE**********REFRESHMENTS